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CALFED Bay-Delta Program
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September 22, 1999

RE: Comments on Preferred Program Alternative

Dear Bay-Delta Stakeholders,

Thank you for weathering this process and bringing the Bay-Delta program to this decision point. The draft program that was published in CDROM dated June 1999 and an Executive Summary dated August 1999 that I received at the Santa Rosa hearing are the basis for my remarks.

I presented comments for Madrone Audubon Society at the Santa Rosa hearing. I currently sit on the Russian River Watershed Council for the League of Women Voters. I wish to offer these remarks based on my experiences as a native Californian and environmental assessor. I speak only for myself and in my capacity as Trustee for the Logan Family Trust.

The principles outlined in the Framework Agreement

- 1) Coordinate their implementation of water quality standards to protect Bay Delta estuary
- 2) Coordinate the operation of the State Water Project and Central Valley Project which both involve transporting fresh water through the Delta to points south
- 3) Develop a process to establish a long term Bay-Delta solution that will address four categories of ecosystem quality, water quality, water supply reliability and levee system vulnerability.

are hopefully prioritized to reflect their tradeoff value in decision making. Substantive and procedural aspects of water quality standard setting must be standardized and plainly understandable by those who must meet their discharge and/or treatment obligations. Improved coordination of water supply operations with endangered species protection and water quality standard compliance will ensure a more integrated systems approach to delta water management. Development of long term solution to fish and wildlife, water supply reliability, flood control and water quality problems in the Delta ensures that aesthetics that we enjoy as Californians and sell as tourism are not degraded

Any equitable project will not put the less densely populated parts of the state at the mercy of the more densely populated parts of the state. The MWD should not be able to bully for any more water than is already allocated. Any area that is not already developed as a water supply/transfer watershed should be fully compensated for the losses associated with water transfers out of the watershed.

Any affordable project will not put future generations holding the tab for a resource that they have never even been allowed to enjoy. If this project is really seeking long term success and viability, then when my grandson gets ready to have his children as the project is completed, my great grandchildren should be able to have an estuary experience that includes frogs, crayfish, and salmon as food for herons, egrets and other wading birds. Already too much of this great state has been sold off so that I cannot even share things I enjoyed as a child with my children and grandchildren.

Any durable project will have maintenance and operations included in the project design. As existing agency and constructed projects have never performed to their optimum, it is time to revisit our objectives and learn from past mistakes. No new construction should take place on the system until the current system is integrated and fully inventoried so that the effects of any action can be reasonably predicted and delta hydrology is more completely understood.

Any implementable project will not include more giveaways of northern California water to the Metropolitan Water District without conservation measures implemented and water conservation education presented to all segments of the population. No resurrection of the Dos Rios project or any other scheme to steal the water of the north coast can be tolerated.

Reducing conflict among user groups is the biggest challenge associated with this program. Alternative I is the most likely to be successful, while Alternative II is more new construction and Alternative III looks like the peripheral canal that was already defeated by California voters in 1980. Any isolated facility is not acceptable as an engineered solution when non-structural modifications and reoperation of existing facilities may provide similar benefits.

It's a wonderful idea to establish Water Transfer Information clearinghouse for better agency coordination and public education. It is critical to continue analysis of cumulative impacts of water transfers and work for better coordination between state and federal water transfer facilities. Defining water shed processes and relationships should be done with an ecological approach so that no effort to restore the Delta results in an action that is to the detriment of another watershed. If you can't avoid the impacts, at least this time please offer the people of California some real mitigation!

Thank you for your work on this difficult and complex task!

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